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Geology of the 241-TY Tank Farm

April 1976

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K. R. Fecht



Environmental Engineering Section
Research Department
Research and Engineering Division

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Atlantic Richfield Hanford Company
Richland, Washington 99352



GEOLOGY OF THE 241-TY TANK FARM

by

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RICHLAND, WASHINGTON 99352

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GEOLOGY OF THE 241-TY TANK FARM

INTRODUCTION

A series of maps have been compiled to document the structure and stratigraphy of the sediments underlying the high-level radioactive waste storage tank farms located within the ERDA Hanford Reservation. The primary purpose of these maps is to provide basic geologic information to be utilized to evaluate the impact of suspected and confirmed tank leaks. For convenience of usage map sets for each tank farm have been published in separate document packets (see Table I). The contents of this packet (see Table II) contain maps compiled only for the 241-TY Tank Farm.

TABLE I

TANK FARM GEOLOGY DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE
AS OF APRIL, 1976*

<u>Title</u>	<u>Document Number</u>
Geology of the 241-A Tank Farm	ARH-LD-127
Geology of the 241-AX Tank Farm	ARH-LD-128
Geology of the 241-B Tank Farm	ARH-LD-129
Geology of the 241-BX Tank Farm	ARH-LD-130
Geology of the 241-BY Tank Farm	ARH-LD-131
Geology of the 241-C Tank Farm	ARH-LD-132
Geology of the 241-S Tank Farm	ARH-LD-133
Geology of the 241-SX Tank Farm	ARH-LD-134
Geology of the 241-T Tank Farm	ARH-LD-135
Geology of the 241-TX Tank Farm	ARH-LD-136
Geology of the 241-TY Tank Farm	ARH-LD-137
Geology of the 241-U Tank Farm	ARH-LD-138
Generalized Geology of the 241-SY Tank Farm	ARH-LD-139

*Additional documents will be completed as new tank farms are built and well monitoring networks installed.

TABLE II

241-TY TANK FARM GEOLOGY MAPS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Drawing Number</u>
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Map Legend and Plot Plan	H-2-38989
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section A-A'	H-2-70509
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section B-B'	H-2-70510
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section C-C'	H-2-70511
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section D-D'	H-2-70512
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section E-E'	H-2-70513
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section F-F'	H-2-70514
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Cross Section G-G'	H-2-70515
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Base of Backfill	H-2-70508
241-TY Tank Farm Geologic Characterization Paleotopography of Silt Horizon	H-2-70507

PROCEDURES

During the drilling of 16 dry wells and 4 water wells in and around the 241-TY Tank Farm, sediment samples were collected from one to 5-foot depth intervals. Information utilized to prepare this series of maps was obtained by the analysis of these samples, numbering approximately 250.

Each sediment sample was quantitatively analyzed according to grain size and CaCO_3 content. Size analysis was carried out utilizing a nest of 9 sieves selected for coincidence with the Wentworth (1922) grain size nomenclature (see H-2-38989). The CaCO_3 content of each sample was determined utilizing a semiquantitative CO_2 displacement method (Horwitz, 1970). Size and CaCO_3 data was input into the Rocksax Computer Program (Parr, 1974) which categorized each sediment sample into 1 of 19 classes (classification scheme modified after Folk, 1968; see H-2-38989). After analysis, each sample was visually examined to aid in further characterization. Each sample was subsequently stored in the Hanford Well Library for future reference.

For convenience of usage, the geologic maps were prepared at the same scale (1" = 16') as drawing H-2-36947 (Wells in 241-TY Farm As-built). Steps outlining the preparation of the maps are listed in Figure 1.

GENERALIZED GEOLOGY

Included within this section is a brief discussion of the geology underlying the 241-TY Tank Farm. The stratigraphic descriptions included, along with the Glossary (see page 12), are designed only to provide sufficient information to permit a general understanding of the Tank Farm maps presented. For a more detailed discussion of the regional geologic setting of the 241-TY Tank Farm, the reader is referred to articles listed in the Selected References (see page 14).

The 241-TY Tank Farm is underlain by four major stratigraphic units (see Figure 2); (1) basalt of the Columbia River Group which forms the bedrock beneath the area; (2) semiconsolidated sediments of the Ringold Formation which directly overlie the bedrock; (3) unconsolidated eolian silt; and

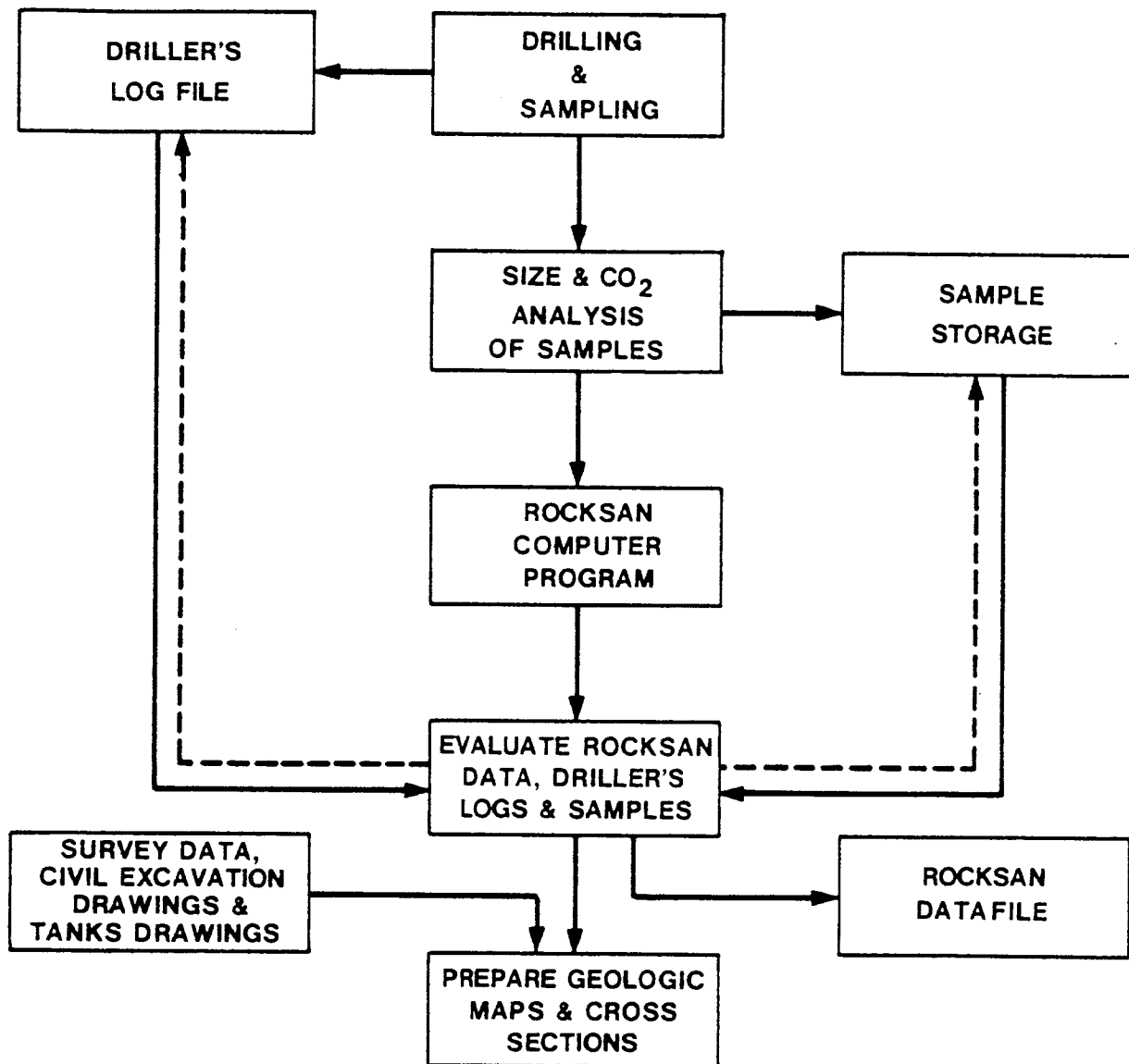


FIGURE 1

STEPS OUTLINING THE PREPARATION OF
TANK FARM GEOLOGY MAPS

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	YEARS B. P.	STRATIGRAPHIC NAME AND/OR UNIT		LITHOLOGY DESCRIPTION	
CENOZOIC	QUATERNARY	MODERN	30	BACKFILL		VERY POORLY SORTED GRAVEL, SAND & SILT	
		PLEISTOCENE		GLACIOFLUVIAL SEDIMENTS		FAIRLY WELL SORTED FLUVIAL SAND & SILT WITH SOME GRAVEL	
				EOLIAN SILT		FINE SAND & SILT DERIVED FROM THE UPPER RINGOLD	
	TERTIARY	PLIOCENE	1,000,000	RINGOLD FORMATION	UPPER RINGOLD	WELL SORTED FLUVIAL OR LACUSTRINE SILT & SAND WITH SOME CALCAREOUS LAYERS	
					MIDDLE RINGOLD	FLUVIAL GRAVEL & SAND VARIABLY CEMENTED WITH CALCIUM CARBONATE & SILICA	
		MIOCENE		11,000,000	COLUMBIA RIVER BASALT GROUP	ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN MEMBER	DENSE BLACK EXTRUSIVE IGNEOUS ROCK, MICRO VESICULAR, BRICK BAT ENTABLATURE & NO COLUMNADE
						RATTLESNAKE RIDGE MEMBER	TUFFACEOUS SANDSTONE
						POMONA MEMBER	DENSE BLACK EXTRUSIVE IGNEOUS ROCK, SCATTERED OLIVINE PHENOCRYSTS, UPPER & SOMETIMES BASAL ENTABLATURE WELL DEVELOPED, FAN JOINTING IN COLUMNADE

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FIGURE 2

GENERALIZED STRATIGRAPHIC COLUMN FOR
THE 200 AREA TANK FARMS

(4) unconsolidated sand, silt, and gravel, collectively termed glaciofluvial sediments, which directly overlie the eolian silt. A more detailed description of the character of these units underlying the Tank Farm follows.

COLUMBIA RIVER BASALT GROUP

About 20 million years ago a series of fissures opened around the periphery of the subsiding Pasco Basin and large volumes of basaltic lava poured out over the land surface. The highly fluid lava was extruded intermittently from these fissures until approximately 8 million years ago. At the cessation of Columbia River Basalt volcanism, the basin had been filled with more than 12,000 feet of basalt.

The surface of the Columbia River Basalt lies beneath 241-TY Tank Farm at an elevation of 187 feet (all elevations based on feet above mean sea level measured at approximate center of Tank Farm). On the 241-TY Tank Farm maps, this surface occurs approximately 185 feet below the bottom border of the prepared cross sections.

RINGOLD FORMATION

Following the cessation of Columbia River Basalt volcanism the ancestral Columbia River transported sediments from the surrounding highlands into the Pasco Basin where they accumulated to form the Ringold Formation. Beneath the Hanford Reservation, this formation is up to 1200 feet thick and can generally be divided into three units on the basis of lithology; the clays and silts of the lower Ringold unit; the pebbles and cobbles of the middle Ringold unit; and the silts and fine sands of the upper Ringold unit.

Within the region beneath 241-TY Tank Farm, the lower Ringold unit is missing. The combined thickness of the middle and upper Ringold units present is approximately 397 feet.

Middle Ringold

Beneath the 241-TY Tank Farm, the 345-foot thick middle Ringold unit lies unconformably on the Columbia River Basalt and dips to the southeast about 50 feet per mile. The unit consists predominantly of well-rounded pebbles and cobbles with the interstitial spaces filled with medium to fine sand and silt cemented in places with SiO_2 or CaCO_3 . Table III summarizes the grain size and CaCO_3 values of the middle Ringold sediments.

TABLE III

TYPICAL SIEVE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES FOR MAJOR
MIDDLE RINGOLD LITHOLOGIES BENEATH 241-TY TANK FARM

Lithology	%Pebbles & Cobbles	% Sand					%Silt & Clay	%CaCO ₃
		Very Coarse	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Very Fine		
Sandy Gravel	77	2	3	4	9	5	1	0.3
Cemented Calcareous to Siliceous Slightly Silty Sandy Gravel	70	4	6	6	8	5	1	0-12.0
Coarse to Medium Sand	1	9	26	36	15	10	4	1.0
Cemented Calcareous to Siliceous Slightly Silty Sandy Gravel	67	8	7	6	6	5	2	0-12.0

The lower portion of the middle Ringold unit (elevation 185-283 feet) is blue-gray in color suggesting that the sediments have not undergone oxidation and have continuously been below the water table since their deposition. In contrast, sediments of the middle Ringold unit above the 238-foot elevation level have undergone oxidation as evidenced by their gray-brown color and their well developed weathering rinds.

Although the middle Ringold unit consists predominantly of pebbles and cobbles, a few sand units up to 17 feet in thickness occur beneath 200 West Area. Such units represent either lacustrine or fluvial deposits

laid down during periods of decreased velocity of the ancestral Columbia River. An example of one such unit is found beneath the 241-TY Tank Farm at an elevation of 424 feet.

Upper Ringold

The upper Ringold unit, which overlies the middle Ringold unit, occurs between elevations 530 and 562 feet. The unit consists predominately of well sorted fine sands and silts. These sediments, like the sand units of the middle Ringold, are representative of a period of decreased velocity of the ancestral Columbia River or temporary ponding. Table IV summarizes the grain size and CaCO_3 values of the upper Ringold unit.

TABLE IV

TYPICAL SIEVE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES FOR MAJOR
UPPER RINGOLD LITHOLOGIES BENEATH 241-TY TANK FARM

<u>Lithology</u>	<u>%Pebbles & Cobbles</u>	<u>% Sand</u>					<u>%Silt & Clay</u>	<u>%CaCO_3</u>
		<u>Very Coarse</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Very Fine</u>		
Calcareous Sandy Silt	0	0	2	6	8	20	64	11.0
Medium to Fine Sand	0	2	4	33	29	15	16	1.8
Cemented Calcareous Sandy Silt	0	0	3	14	16	15	52	14.0
Silty Fine to Very Fine Sand	0	4	6	13	18	21	38	2.5

EOLIAN SILT DEPOSIT

After deposition of the upper Ringold, the top of the unit was subjected to subaerial erosion. The surface of the unit was altered by wind which winnowed, reworked, and redeposited the fine grained sands and silts.

These wind-deposited sediments, termed Early Palouse soil or eolian silt, occur beneath the 241-TY Tank Farm between elevations 562 and 579 feet.

Table V summarizes the grain size and CaCO_3 content of the eolian silt.

TABLE V

TYPICAL SIEVE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES FOR 241-TY TANK FARM
EOLIAN SILT LITHOLOGIES

Lithology	%Pebbles & Cobbles	% Sand					%Silt & Clay	%CaCO ₃
		Very Coarse	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Very Fine		
Silty Very Fine Sand	0	2	3	13	21	23	39	2.1
Sandy Silt	0	1	2	11	14	21	51	2.1

CALICHE DEPOSITS

After the deposition of the eolian silt, the climate was arid as indicated by two layers of CaCO₃ (caliche) found near the top of the upper Ringold unit. The strongest developed caliche layer beneath the 241-TY Tank Farm is found between elevations 538 and 544 feet. A less developed layer beneath the Tank Farm is located between elevations 556 and 562 feet (see CaCO₃ values in Table IV).

GLACIOFLUVIAL DEPOSITS

During the close of the Ice Age, approximately 20,000 years ago, a continental ice sheet covered much of northern Washington. As the ice sheet retreated northward, the breakup of ice dams resulted in catastrophic floods in which large volumes of glacial meltwater were released. During one of these floods, over 500 cubic miles of water is estimated to have poured into the Pasco Basin at a rate of more than 9 cubic miles of water per hour. Sediments deposited within the basin by such flooding now comprise the glaciofluvial unit. The characteristic variability of sediment size and degree of sorting within this unit can be attributed to changes in water velocity and water level which occurred during the flooding process.

Glaciofluvial deposits are found beneath the 241-TY Tank Farm between elevations 579 and 626 feet. The 47-foot thick section of these deposits consists predominantly of coarse to medium sand with some silt and pebbles. Table VI summarizes the grain size and CaCO₃ values of the glaciofluvial sediments.

TABLE VI

TYPICAL SIEVE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES FOR MAJOR GLACIOFLUVIAL
LITHOLOGIES BENEATH 241-TY TANK FARM

Lithology	%Pebbles & Cobbles	% Sand					%Silt & Clay	%CaCO ₃
		Very Coarse	Coarse	Medium	Fine	Very Fine		
Coarse to Medium Sand to Slightly Silty Coarse to Medium Sand	3	12	26	28	12	7	11	1.5
Slightly Pebbly Coarse to Medium Sand	8	15	27	26	11	7	6	1.7
Silty Medium to Very Fine Sand	0	4	11	17	10	16	42	2.1

CLASTIC DIKES

Throughout the Pasco Basin, clastic dikes are found cross-cutting the Ringold Formation and glaciofluvial sediments. These dikes, which range from a few inches to several feet in width, are known to exist to depths of more than 100 feet below the ground surface. Generally, the dikes are composed of fine silts to coarse sands. The origin of the clastic dikes is still in refute and will not be discussed here (see Selected References). Identification of clastic dikes by drilling is difficult and although some dikes were detected in the 241-TY Tank Farm, they could not be mapped.

BACKFILL MATERIAL

In preparation for tank construction, glaciofluvial material was excavated at the 241-TY Tank Farm site. This material, consisting predominantly of cobbles, pebbles, and coarse to medium sands to silts, was subsequently used as backfill from the base of the completed tanks (626 feet) to the ground surface (671 feet). An inherent characteristic of the backfill is its poor sorting. Grain size and CaCO₃ values for the backfill are found in Table VII.

TABLE VII

TYPICAL SIEVE AND CALCIUM CARBONATE VALUES FOR
THE 241-TY TANK FARM BACKFILL

<u>Lithology</u>	<u>%Pebbles & Cobbles</u>	<u>% Sand</u>					<u>%Silt & Clay</u>	<u>%CaCO₃</u>
		<u>Very Coarse</u>	<u>Coarse</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Very Fine</u>		
Silty Sandy Gravel	53	11	11	9	6	4	6	1.5

WATER TABLE

The water table beneath the 241-TY Tank Farm is located within the middle Ringold unit at an elevation of 472 feet, 154 feet below the base of the tanks. For further information concerning contours on the water table beneath 200 West Area the reader is referred to drawings H-2-38397 (200 West Area Water Table Map) and H-2-38877 (200 West Area Depth to Water Map).

GLOSSARY

Basalt. Fine-grained, dark-colored, extrusive igneous rock.

Calcareous. Containing calcium carbonate.

Caliche. Gravel, sand, or silt cemented by calcium carbonate.

Cement. Chemically precipitated material occurring in the interstices between particles of gravel, sand, or silt.

Clastic. A textural term applied to rocks composed of fragmental material derived from pre-existing rocks.

Clastic dike. A tabular body of clastic material transecting the bedding of a sedimentary formation, representing extraneous material that has invaded the containing formation along a crack.

Dip. The angle at which a stratum or any planar feature is inclined from the horizontal.

Eolian. A formation formed by, or deposited from, the wind or currents of air.

Fluvial. Produced by the action of a river or stream.

Formation. The ordinary unit of geologic mapping consisting of a large and persistent stratum of some one kind of rock.

Glaciofluvial. Pertaining to streams flowing from glaciers or to the deposits made by such streams.

Grain. The particles or discrete crystals which comprise a rock or sediment.

Group. A local or provincial subdivision of a series, based on lithologic features and contains two or more formations.

Lacustrine. A formation deposited in a lake environment.

Lava. Fluid rock such as that which issues from a volcano or a fissure in the earth's surface and the same material solidified by cooling.

Lithology. The description of rocks or sediments on the basis of such characteristics as color, minerologic composition and grain size.

Sediment. Descriptive term for gravel, sand, and silt transported from their sources and deposited by air, water, or ice.

Sieve. A utensil having many small perforated openings, used to separate fine particles from coarser ones.

Siliceous. Containing silica.

Silt. Fine grained material between sand and clay in size.

Sorting. The grain size range of the sediments.

Stratigraphy. The part of descriptive geology of an area that pertains to the discrimination, character, thickness, sequence, age and correlation of the sediments and rocks of the area.

Subaerial. Formed, existing, or taking place on the land surface.

Unconformity. A surface of erosion or nondeposition that separates younger strata from older strata.

Water table. The upper surface of a zone of saturation except where that surface is formed by an impermeable body.

Winnowing. Separation of fine particles from coarser ones by wind action.

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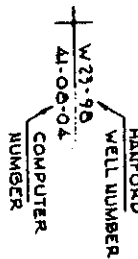
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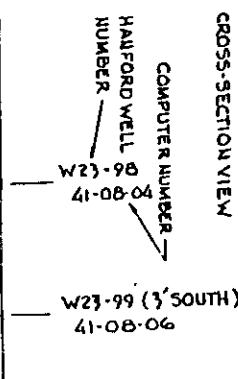
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1. WELL DESIGNATION
WELL NUMBERS PREFIXED BY 299-
PLOT PLAN VIEW



CROSS-SECTION VIEW



SOLID LINE ON CROSS-SECTION.
DASHED LINE WHEN PROJECTED TO
CROSS-SECTION: DISTANCE AND
DIRECTION FROM CROSS SECTION
ARE GIVEN.

2. COORDINATES
BASED ON HAIFORD COORDINATE SYSTEM.
3. PLANE OF CROSS-SECTION
PLOT PLAN VIEW

CROSS-SECTION VIEW



4. TANK DESIGNATION
TANKS PREFIXED BY 241 -

5. CONTACT BETWEEN LITHOLOGIES

SOLID LINE WHERE ACCURATELY KNOWN
DASHED LINE IF APPROXIMATELY KNOWN
DOTTED DASHED LINE WHERE INFERRED
BASE OF BACKFILL

6. LENSES OR STRINGS

DISCONTINUOUS SEDIMENTS LESS THAN TWO FEET THICK
DISCONTINUOUS SEDIMENTS GREATER THAN TWO FEET THICK

7. WATER TABLE

CROSS-SECTION VIEW
DATE WATER LEVEL
MEASUREMENTS TAKEN

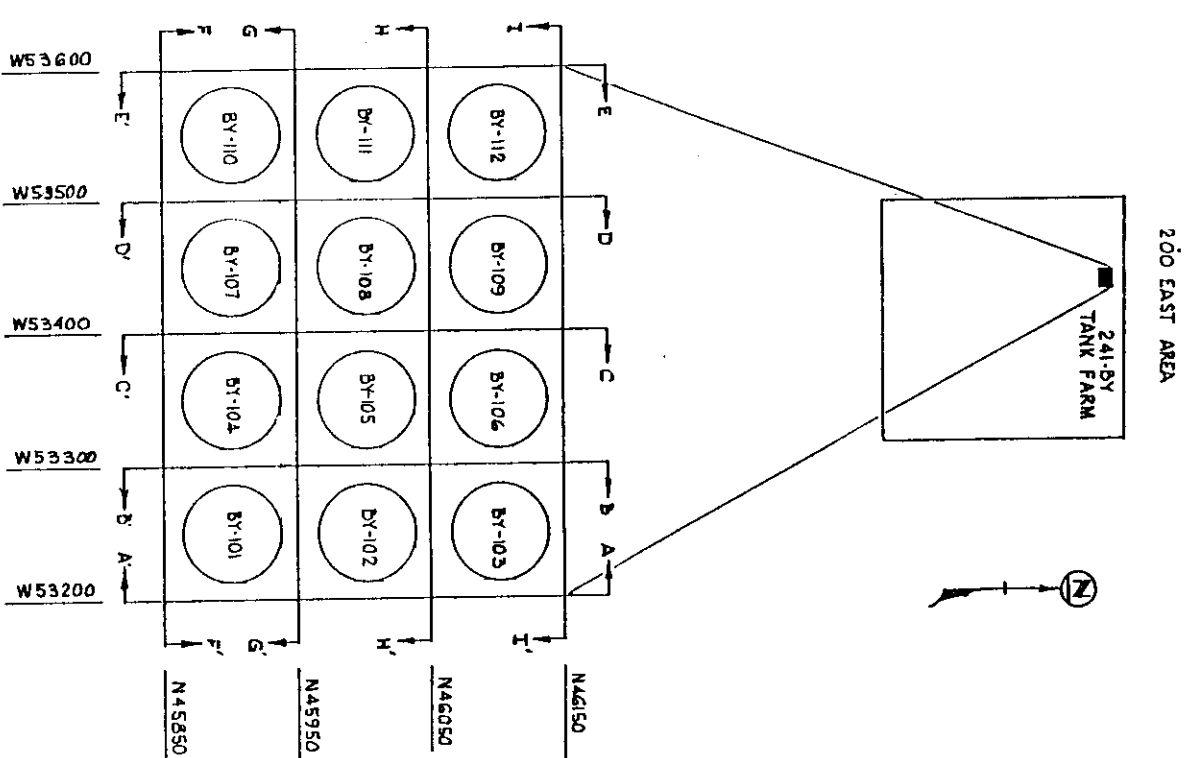
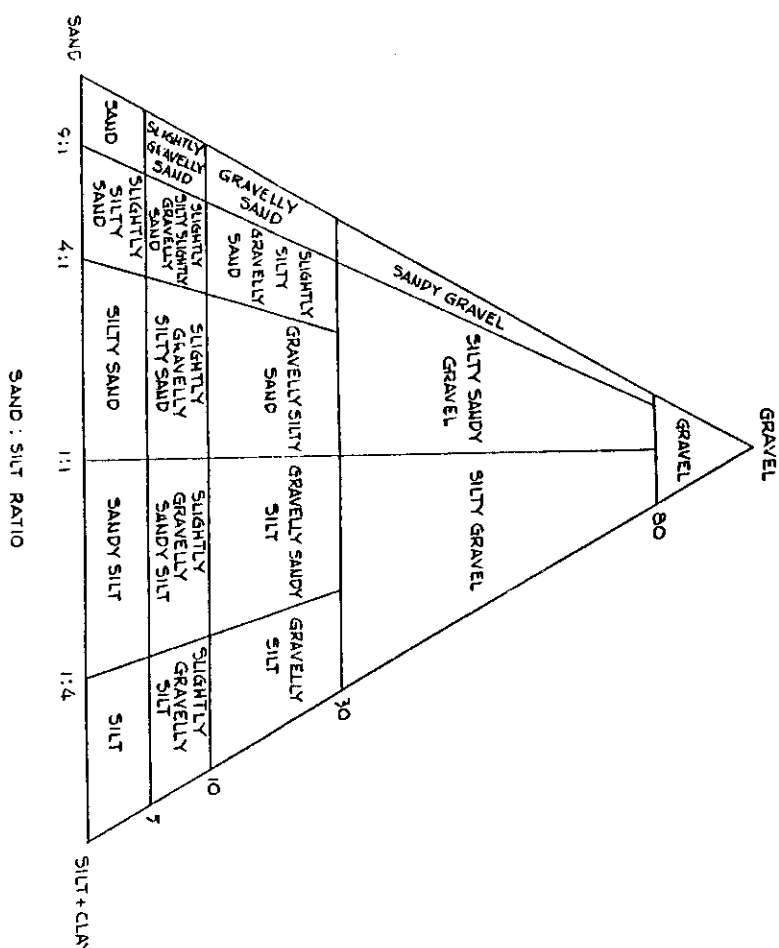
8. HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL SCALES

VERTICAL EXAGGERATION - 1X
VERTICAL SCALE - FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL
20 0 10 20 30 40 50
1:1920

9. SEDIMENT DESCRIPTION

SEDIMENTS BEHIND THE TANK FARMS ARE CLASSIFIED ON THE BASIS OF
NINETEEN SEDIMENT TYPES (SEDIMENT CLASSIFICATION). FURTHER DETAILS
GIVEN USING MODIFIERS FROM THE GRAIN SIZE NOMENCLATURE. SEDIMENTS
WITH CHEMICALLY PRECIPITATED MATERIALS OCCURRING IN THE INTERSTICES
BETWEEN GRAINS ARE PREFIXED BY THE TERM CEMENTED. SEDIMENTS WITH
GREATER THAN 10% CALCIUM CARBONATE ARE PREFIXED BY THE MODIFIER
CALCAREOUS. SEDIMENTS CONTAINING SILICA IN THE INTERSTICES BETWEEN
GRAINS ARE MODIFIED BY THE TERM SILICEOUS.

SEDIMENT CLASSIFICATION (MODIFIED AFTER R.L. POLK, 1968)

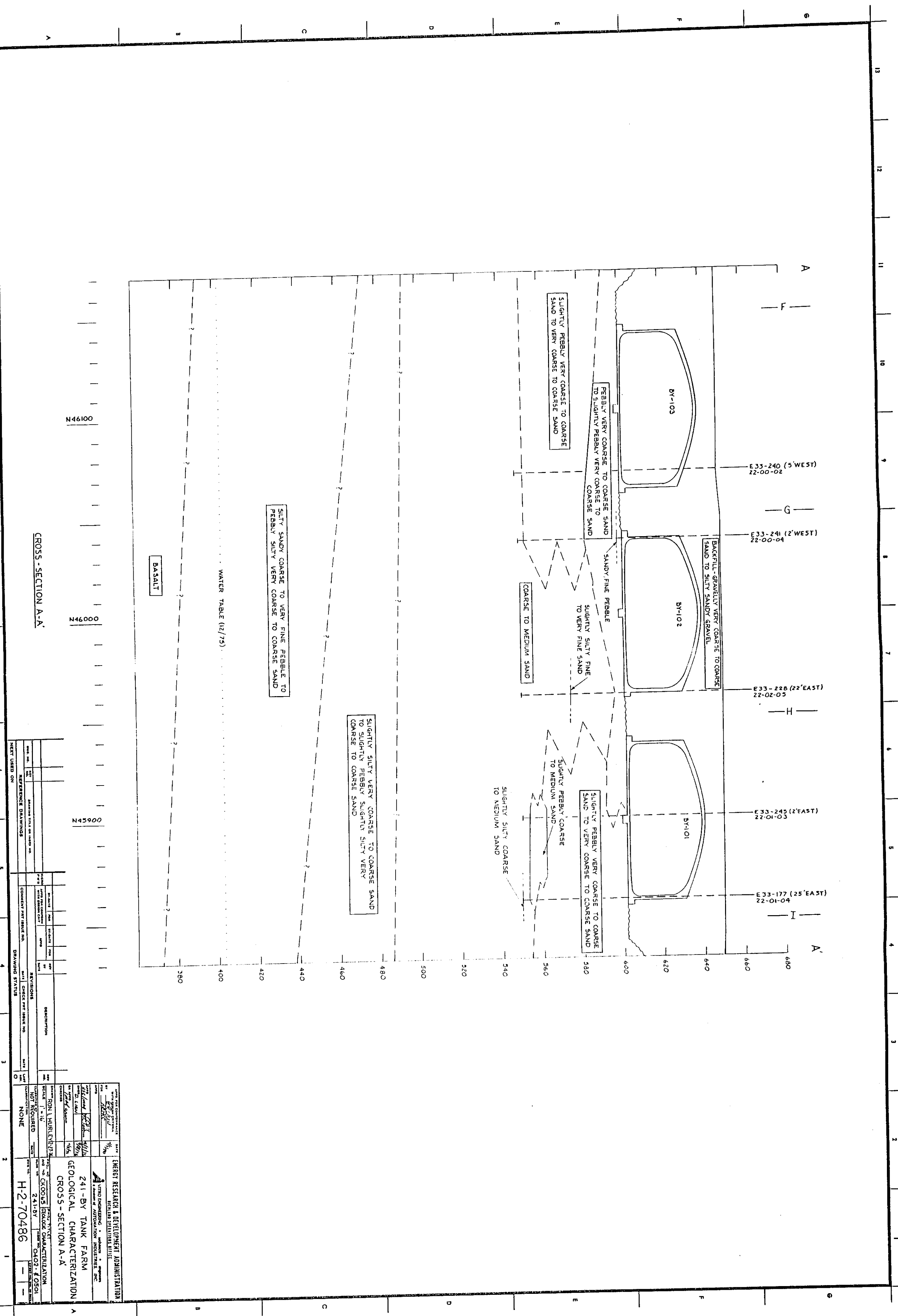


GRAIN SIZE NOMENCLATURE (MODIFIED AFTER C.K. WEITWORTH, 1972)

PARTICLE DESIGNATION	PARTICLE DIAMETER (MM)
BOULDER	> 256
COBBLE	256 - 128
GRAVEL	128 - 64
VERY COARSE	64 - 32
COARSE	32 - 16
MEDIUM	16 - 8
PEBBLE	8 - 4
VERY FINE	4 - 2
FINE	2 - 1
VERY COARSE	1 - 0.5
SAND	0.5 - 0.25
MEDIUM	0.25 - 0.125
FINE	0.125 - 0.0625
VERY FINE	0.0625
SILT + CLAY	< 0.0625

PROJECT NO.	241-BY				
DATE	1/1/72				
BY	J. A. G. G. G.				
CHECKED BY	J. A. G. G. G.				
APPROVED BY	J. A. G. G. G.				
REVISIONS					
NO.	1	DATE	1/1/72	DESCRIPTION	INITIALS
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					

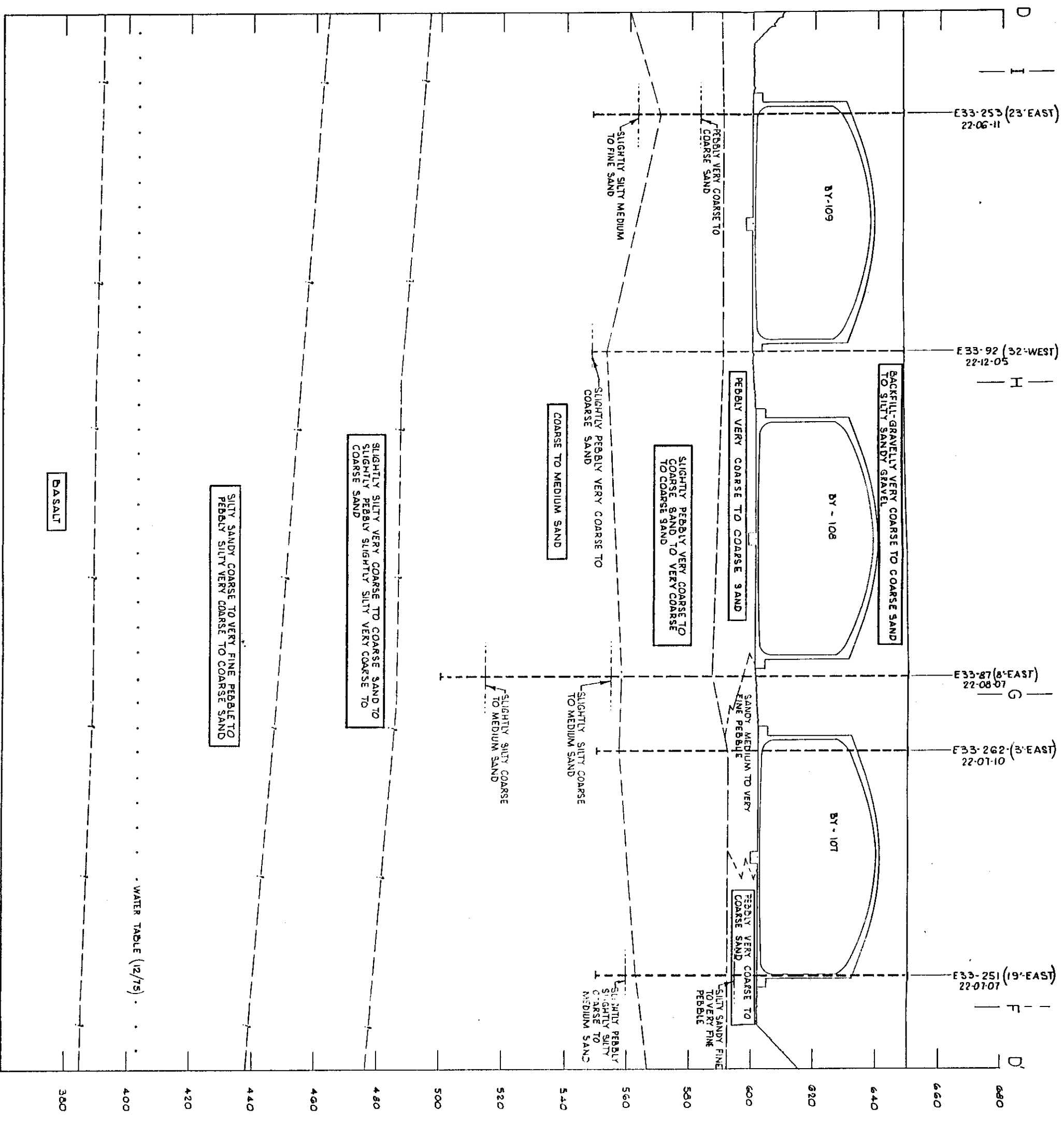
PROJECT NO.	241-BY				
DATE	1/1/72				
BY	J. A. G. G. G.				
CHECKED BY	J. A. G. G. G.				
APPROVED BY	J. A. G. G. G.				
REVISIONS					
NO.	1	DATE	1/1/72	DESCRIPTION	INITIALS
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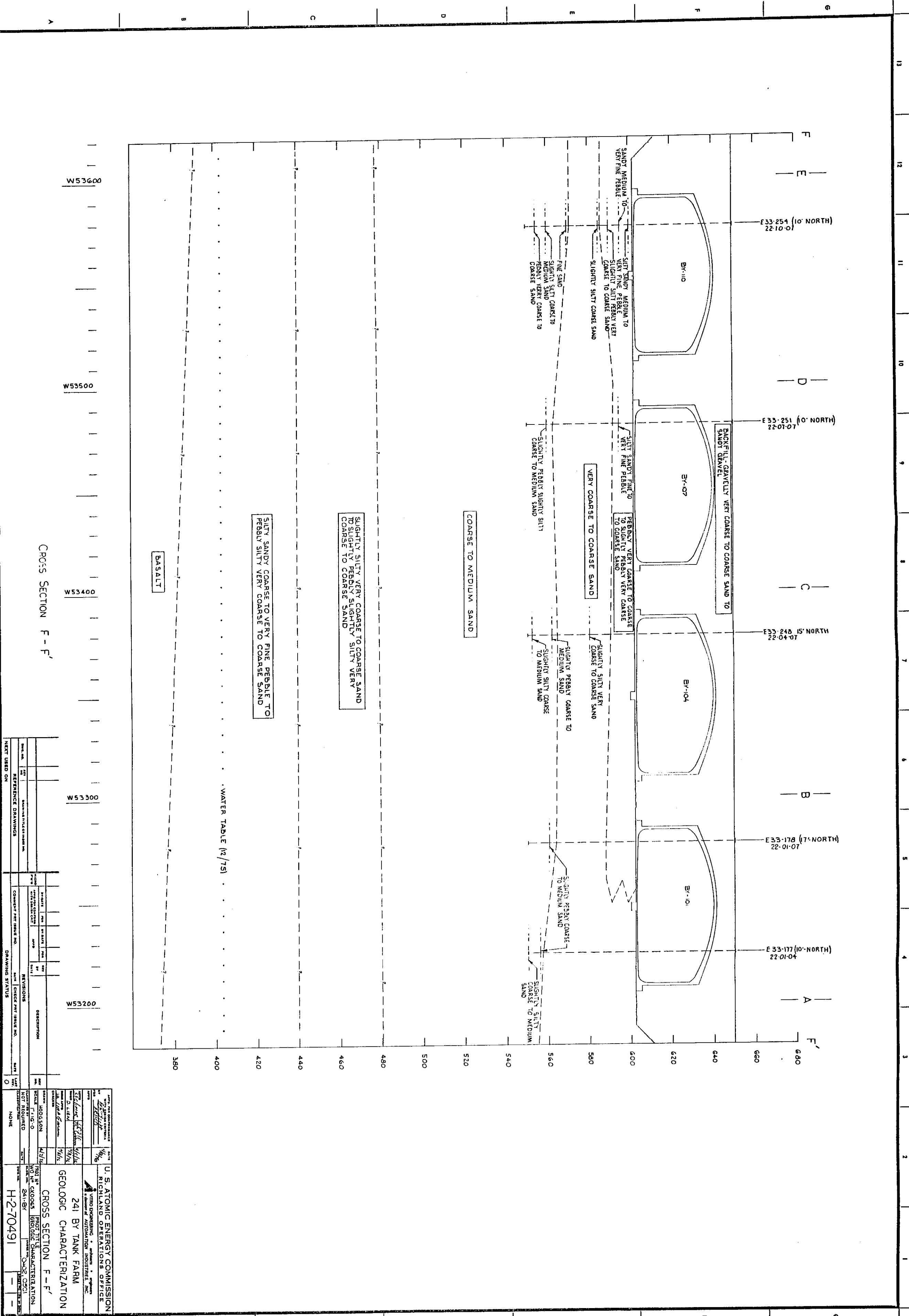
CROSS-SECTION A-A'

DRAWING STATUS		DRAWING NO.		DATE	
DESIGNED	BY	100	100	100	100
CHECKED	BY	100	100	100	100
APPROVED	BY	100	100	100	100
PROJECT NO.		PROJECT NAME		PROJECT LOCATION	
241-BY TANK FARM		GEOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION		CROSS-SECTION A-A'	
DRAWING NO.		DATE		SCALE	
H-2-70486		12/73		1" = 10'	
DRAWN BY		CHECKED BY		APPROVED BY	
J. H. HURLEY		J. H. HURLEY		J. H. HURLEY	
DATE		DATE		DATE	
12/73		12/73		12/73	
SCALE		SCALE		SCALE	
1" = 10'		1" = 10'		1" = 10'	
PROJECT NO.		PROJECT NAME		PROJECT LOCATION	
241-BY TANK FARM		GEOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION		CROSS-SECTION A-A'	
DRAWING NO.		DATE		SCALE	
H-2-70486		12/73		1" = 10'	

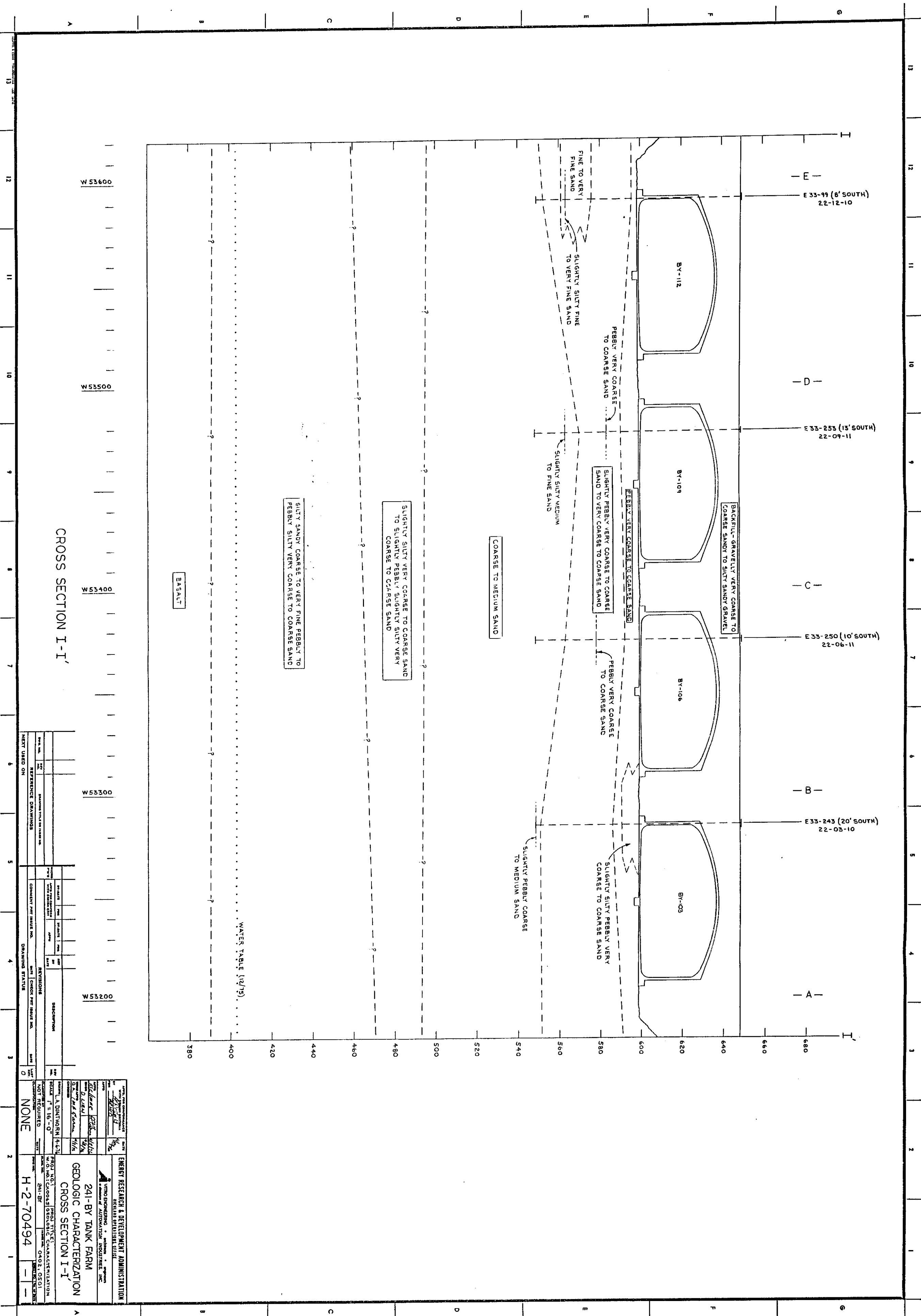
ENERGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
LITHO ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, INC.
241-BY TANK FARM
GEOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION
CROSS-SECTION A-A'

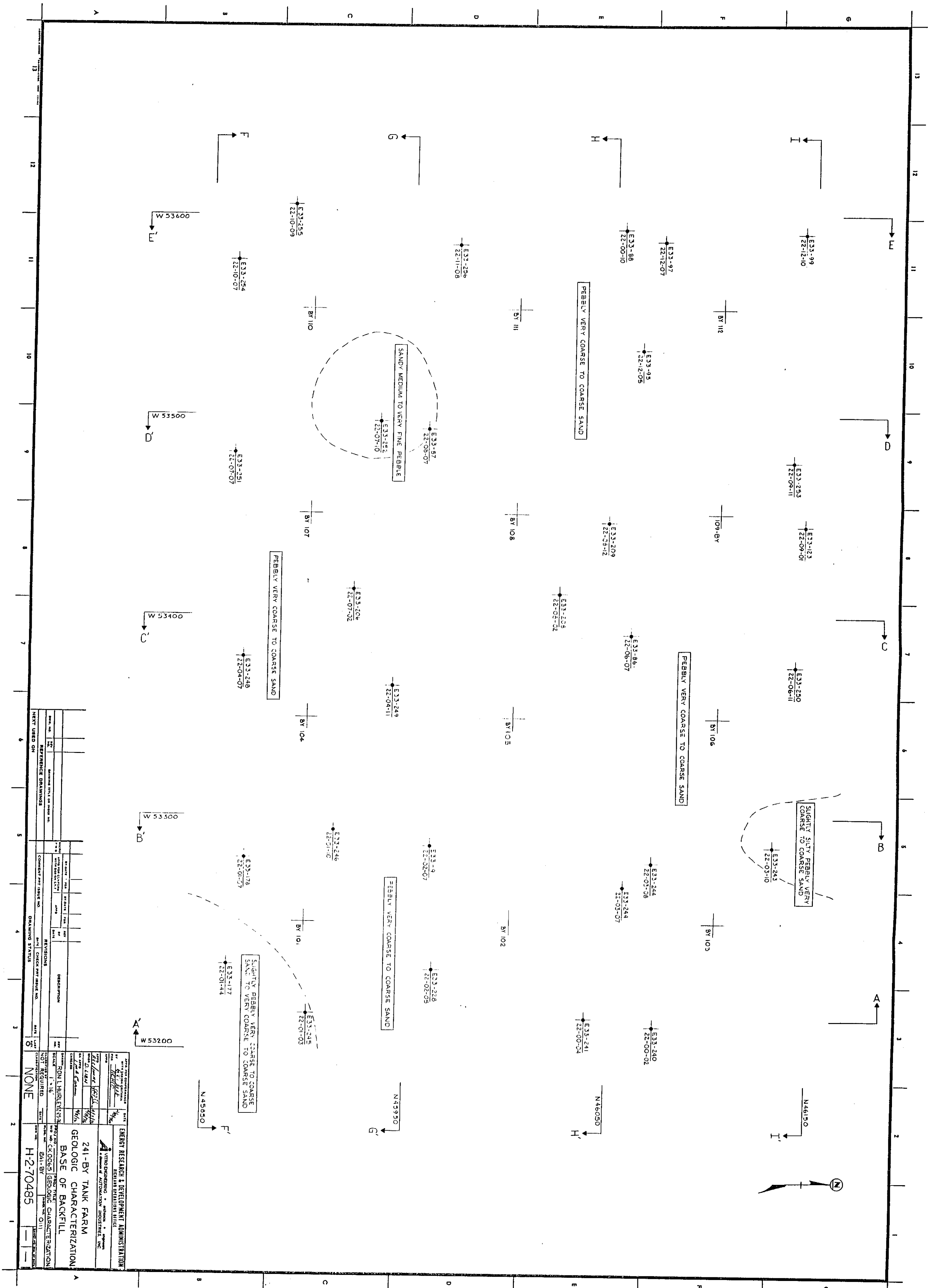


PROJECT: 241 BY TANK FARM GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION CROSS SECTION D-D DRAWING NO. H-270489		SCALE: 1" = 20' 0" DATE: 11/1/51 DRAWN BY: J. L. BROWN CHECKED BY: J. L. BROWN APPROVED BY: J. L. BROWN	
REVISIONS 1. CORRECTED FOR SCALE 2. CORRECTED FOR SCALE		NEXT USED ON: _____ DRAWING STATUS: _____	



U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION RICHMOND OPERATIONS OFFICE	
241 BY TANK FARM GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION	
CROSS SECTION F - F'	
H-2-70491	
DATE: 12/75	
DRAWN BY: [blank]	
CHECKED BY: [blank]	
APPROVED BY: [blank]	
SCALE: 1" = 10'	
SHEET NO. 1 OF 1	
PROJECT NO. 241-BV	
SUBJECT: GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION	
DRAWING STATUS: [blank]	
NEXT SHEET ON: [blank]	





241-BY TANK FARM GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION BASE OF BACKFILL										ENERGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF AUTOMATION INDUSTRIES, INC.									
241-BY TANK FARM GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION BASE OF BACKFILL										241-BY TANK FARM GEOLOGIC CHARACTERIZATION BASE OF BACKFILL									
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